GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2787
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
MISTREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alleged mistreatment of diplomats has been reported from different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the respective countries;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/contemplated by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) There have been instances of alleged mistreatment of Indian diplomats in some countries like USA, Slovenia, Romania, Albania, Hungary. Our Acting Consul General of India in New York was arrested in New York on 12 December 2013. She was handcuffed, strip -searched, fingerprinted by US Law enforcement authorities before being released by a US Court on bail.

In another incident, on 8 February 2011 daughter of an Indian diplomat was arrested from her school in New York on suspicion. She was released the following day after the matter was taken up with the US Department of State.

Besides, there have been instances of physical frisking in abrasive manner or mistreatment of our Ambassadors at some airports or other locations in Slovenia, Romania and Albania and Hungary.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken such issues seriously and has raised the matter with the US authorities and respective foreign offices of the other governments. The US Government has expressed regret at these incidents and the two countries have been engaged in a bilateral dialogue to comprehensively address all aspects related to diplomatic privileges and immunities in a manner consistent with international norms and Conventions.

At the same time, Foreign Offices in Slovenia, Romania and Albania have assured that they would sensitize the local/airport authorities to try and prevent such incidents in future.